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Tomorrow's weather 92 | 73

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INDOT begins maintenance work on Indiana 13 bridge over Mississinewa

INDOT announced bridge maintenance work would soon begin on Indiana 13 over the Mississinewa River. Crews will be conducting the bridgework seven miles south of Wabash between Whites Drive and Howell Road. The work is expected to last until mid-August. During construction, Indiana 13 will be reduced to one lane. Traffic should be prepared to stop and obey the temporary traffic signal. There's a width limit of 12 feet in the project zone.

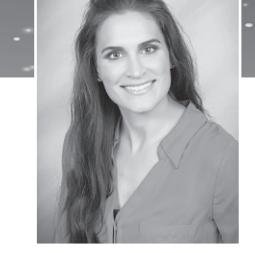
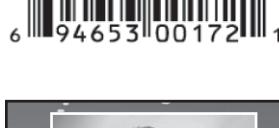
Blood donation opportunities scheduled

The following local American Red Cross blood donation opportunities have been scheduled: 2 to 6:30 p.m.

See PULSE, page A4

Inside

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Erica Markiewicz
Registered Representative

Carmack gets life without parole for 2019 murder of stepdaughter

By ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI
Chronicle-Tribune Editor

Amanda Dawn Carmack will spend the rest of her life in prison, according to another verdict made Monday in the ongoing case involving the killing of 10-year-old Skylea Carmack.

The jury that found Amanda Carmack guilty of all charges Friday, including

first-degree murder, spent about an hour deliberating Monday before it reached a unanimous verdict, recommending Carmack serve a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

According to Indiana Code, a conviction of murder carries between 45 and 65 years in prison, but if certain circumstances are met, a separate trial can be

held to determine if a stricter sentence should apply, such as the death penalty or a life imprisonment without parole. According to Indiana Code, if the jury reaches a sentencing recommendation, "the court shall sentence the defendant accordingly."

Carmack was not formally sentenced Monday, but the jury's verdict – following the one-day jury trial held Mon-

day – means the sentence to be imposed on Sept. 15 in Grant County Circuit Court is already known. Victims of the murder will be allowed to make statements during the proceedings Sept. 15, at 10 a.m.

The life without parole sentence comes after a week-long jury trial began last Monday, nearly two years since Skylea Carmack

was reported missing. Officers and detectives testified that Amanda Dawn Carmack confessed to strangling Skylea Carmack with her hands before grabbing a ligature to tie around the 10-year-old's neck. The confession came about four days after Skylea Carmack was reported missing by Amanda

See CARMACK, page A4

Manchester University to require face masks, effective immediately



Provided photo

Manchester University notified students, faculty and staff that, based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is requiring masks for everyone on its campuses, regardless of vaccination status, except when they are outdoors, in their own office or residence hall room, or while eating.

School urges vaccination 'to protect the vulnerable'

By ANNE GREGORY

Manchester University notified students, faculty and staff that, based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is requiring masks for everyone on its campuses, regardless of vaccination status, except when they are outdoors, in their own office or residence hall room, or while eating.

"We want you to come back to a vibrant college experience in which you can engage fully in the life of the University and with each other. Whether we can do that successfully, however, depends on everyone doing their part and caring about the health



VAN VLERAH

McFADDEN

been vaccinated. We may need to adjust our plan, depending on state and local levels of COVID-19 or our campus-wide vaccination rate," she said.

The northeast Indiana University urges all members of Manchester University to be vaccinated.

"I cannot stress this strongly enough. This new outbreak has been described as a pandemic

See MASKS, page A2

Provided photo

The northeast Indiana University urges all members of Manchester University to be vaccinated.

and safety of other people at Manchester," said Abby Van Vlerah, vice president of student life, in an email to students.

"While we have a plan for the fall, the Delta variant is spreading nationwide, particularly in areas where not enough people have

New WPD officer sworn in on Monday

Ryan W. Fager was born and raised in Wabash

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

At Monday's Wabash City Council meeting, the newest Wabash Police Department (WPD) officer was sworn in by Mayor

Scott Long.

Ryan W. Fager was born and raised in Wabash, graduating from Wabash High School in 2006, said WPD public information officer Capt. Matt A. Benson.

Fager currently resides in Wabash County.

Benson said Fager is on the waiting list to attend

the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy within his first year as a police officer.

Benson said Fager will have to complete a mandatory training course before he may begin his new patrols.

"As all new officers, Officer Fager must complete 40-hour prebasic before he

can start on patrol," said Benson.

Fager's hiring comes after Sgt. Nick Brubaker officially retired in March after two decades of service.

Since the start of the year, two other new WPD officers have been sworn in.

At the March 22 meeting

See OFFICER, page A2

Local students are headed back to school, and local and state police agencies are urging motorists to use caution on the roads.

Wabash Police Department (WPD) public information officer Capt. Matt A. Benson said as Wabash City Schools (WCS) students started back in class on Tuesday, drivers should take extra care.

"The WPD is asking that

See DRIVING, page A4



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NMHS, Shepherd's Center sponsoring eastern Ohio trip

The deadline for the September trip has been extended to Saturday, Aug. 14.

STAFF REPORT

The North Manchester Historical Society (NMHS) and the Shepherd's Center are planning a trip from Friday, Sept. 9 to Sunday, Sept. 11 to eastern Ohio, according to tour coordinator Bernie Ferring.

"You could call this our small-town tour," said Ferring. "We will be visiting six small communities that each have a unique business or attraction."

Ferring said the first stop will be the Smucker's Store that showcases its many products. The next stop will be at Lehman's General Store.

"If you don't have electricity then this is the store for you," said Ferring.

Ferring said they will then travel to Wilmot where we will spend two nights at The Amish Door Inn, with a family-style dinner at the Amish Door Village Restaurant.

On Friday, Sept. 9, the group will visit Warther Museum in Dover, Ohio.

"This museum features many wood carvings, Indian arrowheads and other assortments," said Ferring.

The group will then travel to Zoar, Ohio for lunch and a tour of this community with a population of 169.

In the evening they will travel to Millersburg, Ohio for a buffet dinner followed by a variety show.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, the group will head back to Indiana, but first, they will stop

in Bucyrus, Ohio to visit the Crossroads Factory Store to see the varied items they offer.

"The main part of their business is scented candles," said Ferring. "Across the street, we will visit The Pickwick Place. This will a showcase of fresh produce at the farmers market and The Stalls which features local vendors offering their handmade crafts."

Ferring said eight spots are remaining on this trip, and that the deadline has been extended to Saturday, Aug. 14.

The trip includes two nights lodging, two breakfasts, one lunch, two dinners and all tips and taxes. The cost is \$400 per person for double occupancy and \$525 for single occupancy.

For more information, call bernievicki@gmail.com or call 260 982-8734.

Founders Day on the horizon

Parade through downtown set for 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18

STAFF REPORT

Founders Day organizers are in search of parade entries, vendors, reenactors, volunteers and, of course, participants.

The Founders Day Festival, which begins with the parade through downtown Wabash, kicks off at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, according to Roy Church.

"You don't want to miss it," said Church.

Canceled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event includes the Farmers Market moving onto Miami Street, between Canal and Market streets, a concert featuring Goshen's Abby Thomas at Paradise Spring Historical Park, a wreath-decorating contest, a Little Mister and Miss contest, reenactors at Paradise Spring and children's games, food trucks and vendors at the park until 4 p.m.

"A full day of fun and history in being planned to honor the founders of our beloved city," said Church.

The Friesian Mounted Color Guard from Culver Military Academy will lead off this year's parade. The last parade, in 2019, had more than 100 units.

"Parade chairperson Bev Vanderpool is hoping for at least that many this year. As of this writing, she has about 60 units registered," said Church.

Vanderpool said she is also looking for residents interested in providing convertibles for the parade dignitaries.

"You can drive the car yourself or we will provide a driver," Vanderpool said.

Among the dignitaries scheduled for this year's parade are Distinguished Citizens Doug Adams (2020) and Bill Barrows (2021) and Grand Marshals Ron Woodward (2020), Wabash County historian and Laura Hobbs and Liz Helm (2021), co-directors of The Access.

For more information, call 260-563-4171.

The parade will begin at the west end of Canal Street, proceed to Paradise Spring Historical Park, turn north and head west on Market Street back to the Honeywell Center.

When the parade ends, activities will pick up at Paradise Spring.

"As of this writing, more than 50 vendors of food, textiles, jewelry, pottery and more will be available throughout the park," said Church.

Church said those interested in having a space, should



Provided photo

Abby Thomas, a Californian who has taken up residence in Goshen, will bring her music and her band to the stage near the Corso building at the end of Canal Street.

contact Founders Day Festival Committee chairperson Maria Smythe at Wabash City Hall.

"Unfortunately, the Gypsy Soul Vintage Market, a collective group of small business vendors from Northeast Indiana, had to cancel its appearance because of medical reasons," said Church.

Children's games will be provided by LaFontaine Christian Church, Bachelor Creek Church of Christ and Church of Christ at Treaty.

"Special activities are also planned for the Pioneer Village in the park, including a pioneer merry-go-round. Re-enactors will be roaming the grounds and a flag-raising ceremony is planned for noon," said Church.

Anyone wishing to take part in the activities at the Pioneer Village may contact Paradise Spring board of directors president Deanna Unger by calling 260-571-2879.

"We have costumes if anyone is interested in joining us. Just call," said Unger.

Gebhart Holdings will be handing out gifts to all the children coming to the park.

"We cannot thank the Paradise Spring board enough for working with us on the festival," said Smyth. "They are a huge part of the day's activities and provide us with a perfect setting for honoring our founders."

Abby Thomas, a Californian who has taken up residence in Goshen, will bring her music and her band to the stage near the Corso building at the end

of Canal Street. Start time will be between 12:45 and 1 p.m.

Thomas has performed twice in Wabash earlier this summer at The Eclectic Shoppe during First Friday events in June and August. The alto's music has been influenced by the "eclectic mix of The Beatles and Karen Carpenter to Lauren Hill and John Mayer," according to her website.

Her music has an R&B and jazz flair.

She released her first album, entitled "Who I Am," on June 11.

"Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, grab some lunch at one of the food trucks and enjoy the show," said Church.

Church said, as always, it takes a lot of people and volunteers to make a city-wide festival like Founders Day doable.

"And this year's event is no exception," said Church.

Wabash County YMCA vice president of operations Patty Godfroy is looking for volunteers.

For more information, call her at 260-563-9622.

The YMCA is sponsoring an "old-fashioned" Diaper Derby on Sept. 18.

There will be two age groups competed – 6-10 months and 11-plus months. Registration is at 8:45 a.m. on Miami Street, just east of Schlemmer Brothers. The derby starts at 9 a.m. There is no entry fee and prizes will be awarded to the winners.

For more information, contact Jana Thibos at the YMCA.

Infant, adult killed in crash

BROOKSTON (AP) — An adult and an infant were killed when the car they were in crashed as the driver fled sheriff's deputies in western Indiana.

Three adults, a juvenile, a toddler and the infant were in a BMW which was speeding when it left a road-

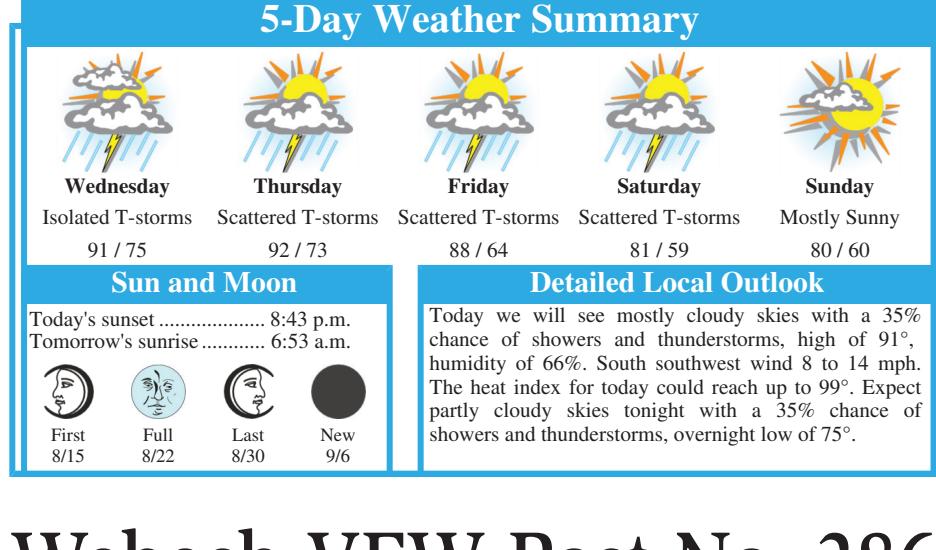
way then struck a tree and stopped against a vacant house in Brookston about 11 p.m. Sunday, state police said Monday in a release.

The BMW was being pursued by White County sheriff's deputies.

The 23-year-old driver from Springfield, Illinois,

was arrested. He faces neglect of a dependent resulting in death, resisting law enforcement with a vehicle causing death, reckless driving causing death, operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death and resisting law enforcement charges.

was arrested. He faces neglect of a dependent resulting in death, resisting law enforcement with a vehicle causing death, reckless driving causing death, operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death and resisting law enforcement charges.



Wabash VFW Post No. 286 to host tenderloin dinner

The Wabash Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 will hold a tenderloin dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13 at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Dan Ford.

The menu will include hand-breaded tenderloin, French fries and a choice of coleslaw or pasta salad.

The cost will be \$10 per person. It will be open to the public. Carryout will be available.

For more information, call 260-563-2463.

MASKS

From page A1

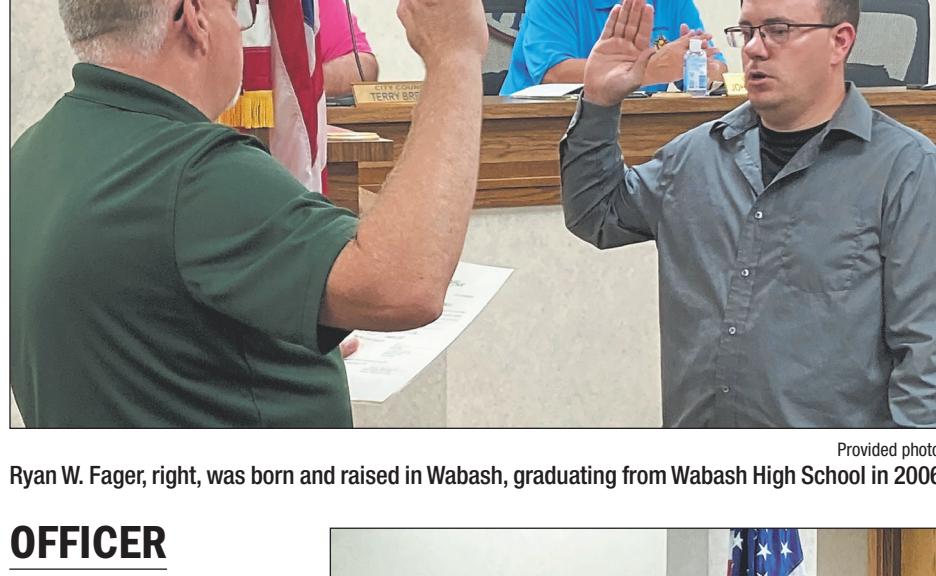
of the unvaccinated," said President Dave McFadden. "Getting vaccinated will help protect the most vulnerable among us. The

vaccines are safe, free and widely available. They also are our way out of this pandemic."

On-campus vaccination clinics will be offered at the North Manchester campus from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Aug. 24 and

Tuesday, Aug. 31. Manchester University has campuses in Fort Wayne and North Manchester.

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.



Ryan W. Fager, right, was born and raised in Wabash, graduating from Wabash High School in 2006.

OFFICER

From page A1

of the Wabash City Council, Adam R. Kneubuhler became the second Wabash Police Department (WPD) probationary officer to begin their duties so far in 2021 when At Large Councilman John Burnsworth administered the oath.

The first probationary WPD officer to be sworn in during 2021 was Gareth L. Monroe, who took the oath from Mayor Scott Long on Jan. 1 at the WPD headquarters. From June to July 2020, the WPD began accepting applications for that probationary police officer position. However, that wasn't the WPD's first try at hiring for the job.

Benson said their original attempt to fill the position was disrupted due to the current pandemic. Benson said that the opening was from another officer who resigned several months before.

"However, we had to postpone the hiring process due to COVID-19," said Benson.

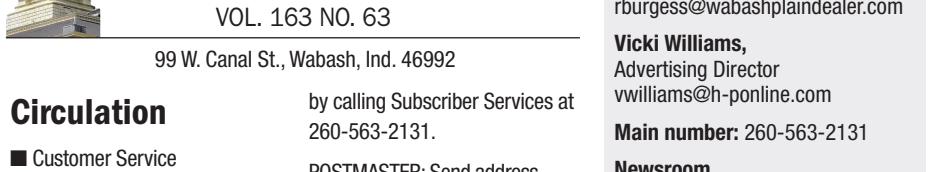
Benson said the benefits



At Monday's Wabash City Council meeting, the newest Wabash Police Department (WPD) officer was sworn in by Mayor Scott Long, left.

package includes a probationary salary of \$49,319; career progression incentive pay, longevity and promotional opportunities through the rank structure; take-home car after two years residing within Wabash city limits, comprehensive medical, dental and eye insurance; life insurance; and paid vacation and sick leave. Benson said under Indiana Code, applicants may not be appointed as a member of the WPD after the person has reached 40 years of age. Benson said under the nepotism clause of Indiana Code 36-1-20.2, a person may not be appointed as a member of the WPD who is related to any officer of the department. Benson said applicants must meet the residency requirements of Indiana Code 36-8-4-2.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.



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Obituaries

Are United Methodist liberals still afraid to act?

As one of the founders of the United Methodist Centrist Movement, the Rev. Doug Damron spent years hiding his

Terry Mattingly
rejection of his church's rule that the "practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

Centrists used a "perfectly delicious" theological platform defined by words such as "unity," "peace" and "moderate," he said, during a recent guest sermon at the historic Broad Street United Methodist Church in Columbus, Ohio. After decades of fighting about sex, many hoped "traditionalists" and "progressives" could keep "United" attached to "Methodist."

The goal was "compromise," said Damron, a "sweet word" that hid a "status quo of oppression." But there was "an institution to protect," and many clergy feared being honest. Thus, they didn't openly attack the denomination's Book of Discipline.

"By nature, I am a rule follower," he said. "I knew that such defiance may have cost me my clergy credentials."

Now it's time for candor and courage, said Damron. When United Methodists finally split, conservatives will build a church defined "by who they will exclude today and who they will exclude tomorrow." The question is whether progressives will act on their convictions.

"It is time to speak into existence, following the Spirit's leading, a church which fully welcomes, includes, affirms not only God's beloved gay and lesbian ones, but a host of other folks who have found the door of the church closed," he said. This would include

embracing and ordaining "trans folks, bi folks, kink folks, poly folk, gender-fluid folk and others."

The United Methodist clock kept ticking this summer, even as COVID-19 realities delayed – again – votes on the "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation" negotiated by activists on the left and right. The General Conference will not meet until August 2022, since the UMC establishment has declined to take actions in virtual forums.

Once the Protocol is approved, conservatives plan to create the Global Methodist Church, merging their large minority among the UMC's 31,000 U.S. congregations into a structure built around the booming churches of Africa and Asia. This new denomination will retain the Book of Discipline's teachings on marriage and sex.

The Protocol's preamble noted that "centrists" still hope to preach compromise after this divorce, while stating that doctrines can be modernized. Thus, the "post-separation United Methodist Church will strive to create a structure of regional conferences ... adaptable to regional contexts" while removing all "restrictive language related to LGBTQ persons."

Meanwhile, in social media, podcasts and Zoom conferences, voices on the doctrinal left have declared that it's time to move past debates about committed gay relationships. Some say it's time to affirm those, including sexually active clergy candidates, cohabitating in straight or gay relationships or living in "poly" – short for "polyamorous" – unions of three or more.

One denomination – the Liberation Methodist Connexion, or LMX – has already formed, rejecting what it believes are the "powers, principalities and privileges" plaguing

Methodism, such as "colonialism, white supremacy, economic injustices, patriarchy, sexism, clericalism, ableism, ageism, transphobia and heteronormativity." The LMX is committed to all people "living out their God-given identities," including "gender expressions and sexual identity" as well as "monogamous and non-monogamous" relationships.

Earlier this summer, leaders of Love Prevails – another liberal network – announced their UMC exit in a letter stating: "We once thought the church's proclamations of grace were simply ironic, but now we understand them to be wicked hypocrisy. We wrongly assumed that the UMC would ... welcome queer people, if only out of institutional preservation. We failed to realize that the church would rather destroy itself than become fully inclusive."

Truth is, many clergy are still afraid to be honest, said the Rev. Austin Adkinson of the Pacific Northwest Conference, a leader in the UMC's Queer Clergy Caucus. In a "Multiamory" podcast from 2018 that is still being quoted, Adkinson stated: "I'm trying to find ways of being able to say, without pulling the carpet out from under some folks, that really it doesn't matter who you're sleeping with, but how you take care of those people.

"I think a lot of more-progressive clergy would have similar thoughts, but don't really have the courage to jump in and put themselves on the line for advocating something that's going to shake the boat," said Adkinson. "Change is slow, and change in the church is slower."

Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

Shirley Ann Barlow, 84, passed away at 6:38 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021, at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne. She was born on Feb. 3, 1937, in Wabash, to the late Herbert and Garnett (Sharp) Enyeart.

Shirley was a 1957 graduate of LaFontaine High School. Shirley married Verlin Barlow on Oct. 20, 1957; he passed away on Dec. 5, 2014. She worked for over 38 years at Wagners and United Technologies. She then worked at Dana, in Andrews, for six years. Shirley loved planting in the garden, working in her flower beds, and just being outside. She also loved to shop and talking with people. Most of all, Shirley loved helping friends and family and spending time with her grandchildren.

Shirley is survived by one

Shirley Ann Barlow

Feb. 3, 1937 - Aug. 5, 2021



son, Tom Barlow, of Wabash; one sister, Eva Mae (Larry) Garrett, of Marion and two brothers, Lamoine (Loretta) Enyeart, of Marion and Estil (Linda) Enyeart, of LaFontaine; sister-in-law, Charlotte Harnish, of Wabash; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild; many nieces and nephews. Along with her husband, Shirley is pre-

ceded in death by one son, Kenneth James Barlow, who passed on November 2014 and two brothers, Herman Enyeart and Larry L. Enyeart.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, at McDonald Funeral Homes, LaFontaine Chapel, 104 South Main Street, LaFontaine, Indiana 46940. Burial will follow at LaFontaine IOOF Cemetery.

Visitation will be two hours prior to services, starting at 9 a.m., at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to Wabash County Shop with a Cop, 780 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

McDonald Funeral Homes, 104 South Main Street, LaFontaine, Indiana, has been trusted with Shirley's arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

Helen Anne Winger Garber

Nov. 20, 1920 - Aug. 3, 2021



Helen Anne Winger Garber, 100, of North Manchester, Indiana, died at 3:10 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, at Timbercrest Healthcare Center in North Manchester. She was born on Nov. 20, 1920, in Sweetser, Indiana, to Lewis David and Gladys (Small) Winger.

Anne was a 1938 graduate of Sweetser High School, a 1950 graduate of Manchester College, and did her graduate work at I.P.F.W. She married James K. Garber at the Cart Creek Church of the Brethren, in Sweetser, on December 28, 1947; he died June 9, 2009. Anne served in the SPARS, the women's reserve unit of the US Coast Guard during WWII. She was stationed in New York City and lived with other SPARS in a hotel on Broadway and attended Norman Vincent Peale's Marble Collegiate Church. She was a talented 2nd grade teacher at Thomas Marshall Elementary School for 18 years, retiring in 1983. She was known for using positive language with children and teaching them to love education and to work together as a little community. After her retirement, Anne was a tutor at Manchester Elementary School. She was a member of the Manchester Church of the Brethren, the Women's Fellowship of the church, the Manchester Community Childcare Association, Manchester Women's Club, Manchester Teachers Association, and Wabash County Retired Teachers Association.

She is survived by her daughter, Julie Garber of North Manchester; two daughters-in-law, Kathy Garber of North Manchester, and Deb-

orah Nelson of Minneapolis, Minnesota; four grandsons, Samuel (Claire) Garber of Minneapolis, Ezra (Candace) Garber of Boca Raton, Florida, Joel Garber of North Manchester, and Joshua (Rose) Garber of Liberty Mills, Indiana; and 9 great-grandchildren, Theo, Enzo, Emma, Jace, James, and Eva Garber, Gabe and Gunnar Erbaugh, and Melody Hatfield. She was also preceded in death by her parents, two sons, Christopher and Timothy Garber, daughter, Gloria Jan Garber, two brothers, Harold and Wayne Winger, and her sister, Evelyn Shaw.

There will be a memorial service at 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, at Manchester Church of the Brethren, North Manchester. Friends may call 2-3 p.m. Saturday at the church. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Bender Chapel, North Manchester.

Preferred memorial is North Manchester Public Library Children's Program.

The memorial guest book for Anne may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Shirley Ann Shanabarger

March 13, 1936 - Aug. 7, 2021



Shirley Ann Shanabarger, 85, of Wabash, Indiana, died 8:50 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, at Wellbrooke of Wabash. She was born on March 13, 1936, in Wabash, Indiana, to Ralph E. and Lura Delight (Kistler) Bakenhorn.

Shirley was a graduate of Wabash High School. She married John Anthony Shanabarger in Wabash on March 13, 1955; he died May 6, 2005. Shirley was a homemaker and a member of the St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wabash. She enjoyed time with her family and visiting with people she saw around town and at the rummage sales where she liked to find a good bargain.

She is survived by three children, Sherry Marie (Joaquin Sanchez) Shanabarger of Seattle, Washington, John Daniel (Peggy) Shanabarger of Sussex, Wisconsin, and

Lisa Diane Shanabarger of Wabash; three granddaughters, Rachel Jane Shanabarger and Mary Grace Shanabarger, both of Sussex, and Ann Marie Shanabarger of De Pere, Wisconsin. She was also preceded in death by her parents; grandson, Anthony Michael Shanabarger; six brothers, Joseph, LeRoy, Harold, Truman, Paul, and Ralph Bakenhorn,

Jr.; and three sisters, Louise Thixton, Mildred Bullins, and Betty Jean Brim. Shirley was the last of her ten siblings to die.

Born and married on a Friday the 13th, Shirley will also be buried on a Friday the 13th, a day she always considered lucky.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m., Friday, Aug. 13, 2021, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 188 W. Sinclair, Wabash, with Father Paul Cochran officiating. Burial will be in Mississinewa Cemetery, Somersett. Friends may call 3-7 p.m. Thursday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash. There will be a prayer service at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home.

The memorial guest book for Shirley may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Sam Henry Bradley

Feb. 19, 1940 - Aug. 9, 2021

Sam Henry Bradley, 81, Silver Lake, died Aug. 9, 2021. Sam was born on Feb. 19, 1940 in Salyersville, Kentucky.

Sam is survived by his son, David (Amanda J.) Bradley; daughters, Cheryl (Louis) Reimer, Sheila Bradley, and Samantha (fiancée Christopher Singpiel) Bradley; ten grandchildren, forty-one great-grandchildren, and

three great-great-grandchildren with two more on the way.

Visitation Friday, Aug. 13, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester. Funeral services will begin at the conclusion of calling. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery in Salyersville.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

Sue Ann Henderson

Services for Sue Ann Henderson, 78, of Wabash, are 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 13, 2021, at Wabash Presbyterian Church. Burial in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Visitation 6-8 p.m. Thursday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

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Sam Henry Bradley

Feb. 19, 1940 - Aug. 9, 2021

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Christina Applegate reveals she has multiple sclerosis

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emmy Award-winner Christina Applegate has announced that she has multiple sclerosis, describing her diagnosis as a "tough road."

The 49-year-old actor

known for her roles in "Mar-

ried... with Children" and "Dead to Me," said in a tweet late Monday that she was diagnosed "a few months ago."

"It's been a strange journey. But I have been so supported by people that I know who also have this condition," wrote Applegate. "It's been

a tough road. But as we all know, the road keeps going."

She added in a later post: "Now I ask for privacy. As I go through this thing."

Multiple sclerosis affects the nervous system and often results in progressive physical and cognitive decline.

DRIVING

From page A1

motorists be cautious in traveling due to school children walking, riding bicycles and waiting at bus stops," said Benson. "Be aware that children sometimes forget about motor vehicles and may dart into traffic. The WPD always urges caution when driving, but especially while the children, parents, bus drivers, and motorists get accustomed to schools back in session."

Benson said drivers should be alert and prepared to stop for school buses loading and unloading.

"Failure to stop for a school bus that has its lights activated and bus arm extended could result in a citation or even worse an injured child," said Benson. "Let us work together and keep the children safe."

Indiana State Police (ISP) public information officer Sgt. Matt Ames said the ISP will have extra patrols during school hours and will have a "zero tolerance for those who disregard a bus stop arm or speeding in school zones."

ISP public information officer Sgt. David Henderson said motorists should be prepared to experience an increased amount of school bus traffic and pedestrian children walking to and from their bus stops and schools during the early morning and mid-afternoon hours.

"Motorists should plan your commutes accordingly to allow for extended travel time during these periods. Special attention should be given to the posted reduced School Zone speed limits, and for school buses regularly stopping or standing to load or unload students."

Henderson said when approaching a school bus from any direction, which is stopped and has its red lights flashing and stop arm extended, motorists are required to stop, even on multiple lane highways where there is no barrier or median separating lanes of traffic. Motorists on

a highway that is divided by a barrier, such as a cable barrier, concrete wall, or grassy median, are required to stop only if they are traveling in the same direction as the school bus.

"Always be prepared to stop for a school bus and watch for children. Children are unpredictable. Not only is disregarding a school bus stop arm dangerous, but it is also a serious offense," said Henderson.

Ames offered the following tips for motorists:

- Always watch for stopped school buses in the morning hours and afternoon hours.

- Watch for children walking to and from school and waiting at bus stops.

- Always keep your eyes on the road and be patient driving behind school buses.

- Be on the lookout for school zone signals and always obey the speed limits.

- When entering a school zone, be sure to slow down and obey all traffic laws.

- Always stop for school buses that are loading or unloading children.

- Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals.

- Be aware of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, in the streets, and in school parking lots.

- Never pass other vehicles while driving in a school zone.

- Avoid using a cell phone, unless it is completely hands-free while driving in a School Zone.

Ames offered the following tip for students walking to and from school:

- Leave home early enough to arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of school.

- Use the same route every day and never use shortcuts.

- Go straight home after school. Do not go anywhere else without permission.

- Always use public sidewalks and streets when walk-

ing to school.

- Try and walk to school with other students. There is strength in numbers.

- Teach your children to recognize and obey traffic signals and signs.

- Only cross streets at designated crosswalks.

- Always look both ways before crossing the street.

- Always walk and never run across intersections.

- Don't talk to strangers. Teach your children to create distance between themselves and anyone who tries to approach or make contact with them.

- If a stranger does approach your child, make sure they know to immediately report the incident to you or a teacher.

- Teach your children to never get into a vehicle with anyone, even if they know them, without your permission.

Ames offered the following tip for students riding school buses to and from school:

- Make it a habit of arriving at the bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus.

- Make sure your child stays out of the street and avoids excessive horseplay while waiting for the school bus.

- Be sure the bus comes to a complete stop before getting on or off.

- When riding the bus, make sure your child understands they must remain seated and keep their head and arms inside the bus at all times.

- Do not shout or distract the driver.

- Always listen to the instructions of the bus driver.

Ames offered the following tip for students driving themselves to and from school:

- No cell phones while driving.

- No extra passengers.

- No speeding.

- No driving or riding without a seat belt.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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- Use the same route every day and never use shortcuts.

- Go straight home after school. Do not go anywhere else without permission.

- Always use public sidewalks and streets when walk-

CARMACK

From page A1

Carmack.

Upon finding out Skylera Carmack stole a charm bracelet from another child in the home, Amanda Carmack spoke with her husband, Kevin Carmack, around 3:30 p.m. Aug. 31, 2019. From that time until around 9 p.m., detectives say Amanda Carmack's phone data went silent.

That's around the time Amanda Carmack also called Gas City Police, at the urging of her husband, to report Skylera Carmack missing. While prosecutors say Amanda Carmack claimed to have memory loss from the incident, Amanda Carmack gave a clothing description to the 911 caller that matched the clothes the 10-year-old was found in when police discovered her body in the backyard of the home at 212 S. D St. in Gas City.

The body was found with a

pair of leggings double knotted around the neck, tucked inside three black trash bags containing dryer sheets and items reported by Amanda as missing from the child's room: a pink backpack, pillow and blanket. Detectives found lit tea candles in the shed, too. Items were stacked around and on top of the body, police say.

Following a failed polygraph test the day before, Amanda Carmack showed up to the Gas City Police Department on Sept. 4, 2019 in the early morning hours to talk with police. Witnesses testified that notes found in the home hours before the confession and mounting evidence led police to plead with Amanda Carmack to let them know if she knew where Skylera Carmack was.

In the confession played in court, Amanda Carmack spoke of images and "flashers" she'd seen involving a trash bag on the left hand side of the white shed along with visions of being on top

of the child while strangling her. Police located the body in that exact spot before arresting Amanda Carmack, who wrote letters to her family and husband to apologize for her actions.

The defense argued that Amanda Carmack didn't plan the murder but instead acted in sudden heat since she provided 24/7 care to seven children while homeschooling children and doing work around the house while Kevin Carmack was a long-haul truck driver, often gone for long periods of time.

The argument did not persuade the 12-person jury, which found her guilty of all charges, including murder, neglect of a dependent causing death, domestic battery resulting in death and strangulation.

The sentencing hearing set for Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. is the final hearing scheduled in the case.

Andrew Maciejewski, Chronicle-Tribune editor, may be reached by email at amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com.

followed by a short soak in a 10 percent bleach solution to keep birds healthy and limit the spread of disease.

Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned at least once a week with a 10 percent bleach solution and rinsed thoroughly.

Based on the data, it appears that the bird illness is consistently affecting specific areas. There is no imminent threat to people, the population of specific bird species, or to the overall population of birds in Indiana.

The birds have also tested negative for other flaviviruses, Salmonella and Chlamydia (bacterial pathogens), Newcastle disease virus and other paramyxoviruses, herpesviruses and poxviruses, and Trichomonas parasites. Other diagnostic tests are ongoing.

For more information, visit IN.gov/songbirddeaths.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

explore Salamonie" hike at 5 p.m. during each month's first Saturday through September at Salamonie's Interpretive and Nature Center at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127. Property entrance fees of \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state vehicle apply. State Park Annual Entrance Passes are available for purchase.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, call 260-571-5235 or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Wabash County Animal Shelter

partnership to pair

emerging readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companion program will be held on the third Thursday of each month at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810 Manchester Ave. The time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

NMCH celebrates 'Securing the Vote: Women's Suffrage in Indiana'

The North Manchester Center for History (NMCH) invites visitors to enjoy a new traveling exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) marking the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which recognized a woman's right to vote. The exhibit, "Securing the Vote: Women's Suffrage in Indiana," will be open to the public from Tuesdays through Saturdays through Saturday, Aug. 21 at 122 E. Main St., North Manchester. For more information, call 260-982-0672 or visit www.northmanchestercenterforhistory.org.

Clark Gallery exhibit presents rich

contributions of Latino artists

"Artes Latinas in Wabash," on display through Sunday, Aug. 22 in the Honeywell Center Clark Gallery, presents the rich and varied contributions of Latino artists. The exhibit presents the artistic creations of six professional artists, including various styles such as illustration, printmaking, painting, muralism and graphic design. Works featured in the exhibit are presented by Colombian, Puerto Rican, Nuyorican and Mexican artists. In addition, the exhibit features the artistic creations of Wabash County students who worked alongside visiting artist Ana Velazquez for We the Many, a project of Arts Midwest. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org/classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Salamonie Preschool offers 'S is for Snake' on Aug. 11

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Preschool's "S is for Snake." Children ages 2 to 5 and their adults are welcome to attend the class from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11 at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews, located in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area. The program fee is \$2 per child. Advance registration is appreciated. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

Salamonie Lake workdays continue throughout summer

Salamonie Lake's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, will host volunteer workdays at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 16; and 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25. For more information, visit 260-468-2127.

'Liking for Biking' returns

Through Saturday, Aug. 28, anyone of any age or skill level who is interested in a free, family-friendly hour-long bike ride is invited to meet at 8:45 a.m. each Saturday at Paradise Spring Historical Park's upper pavilion, 351 W. Market St. Helmets are required. The next health assessment will take place at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 inside of door 10 at Parkview

Dr. Ford Home announces 'fun, family-friendly' event lineup

Honeywell Arts & Entertainment welcomes guests

Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive, while the rest of the rides will start at Paradise Spring Historical Park with wheels rolling at 9 a.m. For more information, www.visitwabashcounty.com/adventure-series or call 260-563-7171.

INDOT to begin asphalt resurfacing on Indiana 13

Asphalt resurfacing has been planned on Indiana 13 between County Road 700 and County Road 800. The work is expected to be complete by the beginning of September.

Salamonie Forest Preschool to begin in September

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool from September 2021 through May 2022 for one Tuesday a month or two Tuesdays a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area. Classes for the once a month option will be held Tuesdays including Sept. 14, 2021; Oct. 5, 2021; Nov. 2, 2021; Dec. 7, 2021; Jan. 4, 2022; Feb. 1, 2022; March 1, 2022; April 12, 2022; and May 3, 2022.

Classes for the second meeting time each month will also be held Tuesdays including Sept. 28, 2021; Oct. 19, 2021; Nov. 16, 2021; Dec. 21, 2021; Jan. 18, 2022; Feb. 15, 2022; March 15, 2022; April 26, 2022; and May 17, 2022. The program fee for the package of nine once-a-month sessions is \$60 per child ages 3 to 5. Additional siblings are \$35. The program fee for the package of 18 twice a month sessions is \$100 per child, and additional siblings are \$75. Advance registration is required. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit WabashMarketplace.org/farmers-market or call 260-563-0975. For more information about Downtown Wabash Farmers' Market, visit WabashMarketplace.org/farmers-market.

8th annual Car and Bike Show Bike Ride for Riley Kids planned

The Clown Town Motorcycles and Sharp

Wabash County Solid Waste Management District honored

Wabash River
Defenders names
Tall Sycamore of the
Wabash Award for 2021

STAFF REPORT

The Wabash River Defenders has named the Wabash County Solid Waste Management District as the 2021 recipient of its Tall Sycamore of the Wabash Award, according to Roy Church.

Through the leadership of Wabash County Solid Waste Management District executive director Jen Rankin, waste management, recycling and environmental concerns have been forefront objectives.

"Our volunteers could have never accomplished all the river improvements we've made without the help of the solid waste district. Over the past 11 years, hundreds of volunteers have removed more than 5,000 tires and 150 tons of debris from the 19.2 miles of river in Wabash County, and most of the haul is recycled," said River Defenders volunteer leader Michael Beauchamp. "Our partnership with the district is essential to our success, so the award is apt."

Watershed-related environmental education has been introduced to students throughout the county.

Fourth-grader students, labeled Wabash River "Junior Defenders," are provided presentations and hands-on activities in the classroom like "Freddy the Fish" and "Who Polluted the Wabash River?" Upon completion of classroom study, students travel to local creeks to conduct actual clean-ups and apply first-hand what they learned.

"Early in the development of Wabash River Defenders and 'Clean Out the Banks,' we recognized that



Provided photos

ABOVE: Executive director Jen Rankin, left, and Jeff Kramer display the Wabash County Solid Waste Management District's Tall Sycamore of the Wabash Award. **TOP RIGHT:** More than 150 volunteers turned out July 31 for the Wabash River Defenders "Clean Out the Banks" event. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** This team made "quite a haul" along the banks of the Wabash River.

we could not tackle such a Herculean task without developing relationships with other organizations who would share our vision for a clean Wabash River," said volunteer, Steve Johnson.

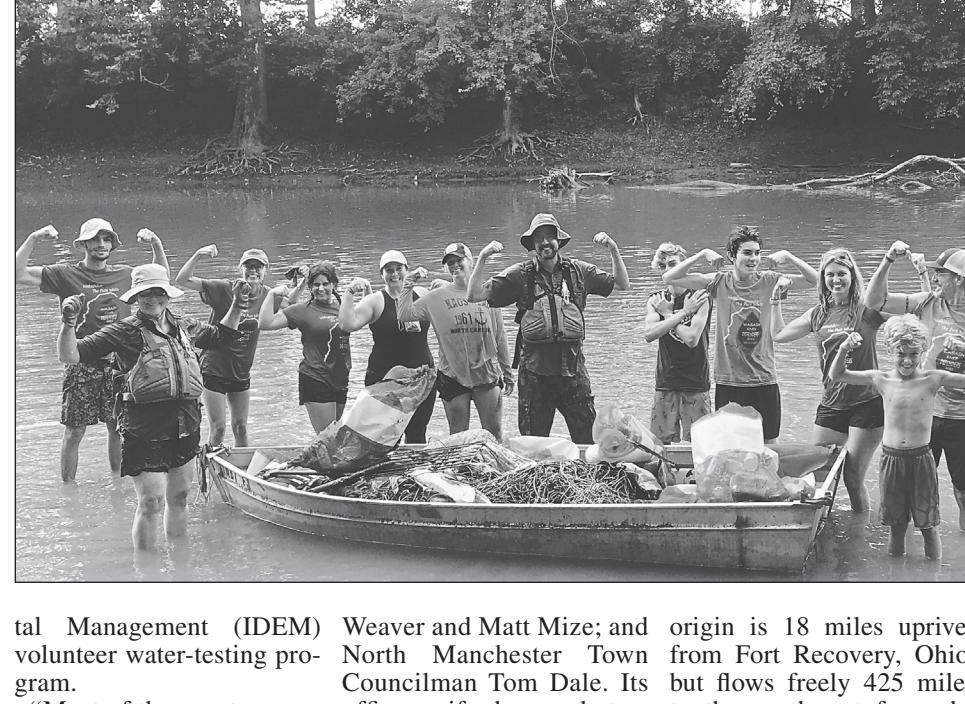
Presenters like the solid waste district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Salamonie Interpretive Center, Wabash County Soil and Water Conservation, Wabash County Museum and others will educate students about the Wabash River and watershed concerns.

The district also led the work of the River Defenders' education committee, drafts the River Defenders' newsletter, records radio spots and hosts Hoosier Riverwatch training, an Indiana Department of Environment-

This year, 400 students from Wabash, Northfield, Southwood, Manchester and Emmanuel Christian will paddle 3.7 miles downriver from Lagro.

"The amazing part is that 82 percent of the debris has been recycled, not landfilled, with the help of the district," he added, "and, contrary to popular belief that the district gets paid for all recycled materials, the district has actually funded in excess of \$20,000 to get the river debris recycled."

In September, seventh-graders raft down the Wabash River as part of an education program named "River Wild," where they experience watershed-related demonstrations on several river shoals.



tal Management (IDEM) volunteer water-testing program.

"Most of the grants, especially ones from the IDEM and DNR, have included requirements for local environmental education," Johnson said. "The district's work enables us to fulfill the State of Indiana requirements to improve water quality in the county."

Rankin has served as executive director since 2012. Members of the WCSMD board are County Commissioners Brian Haupert, Barry Eppley and Jeff Dawes; Mayor Scott Long; Wabash City Councilmen Wade

Weaver and Matt Mize; and North Manchester Town Councilman Tom Dale. Its offices, gift shop and storage facility is located at 1101 Manchester Ave.

Rankin estimated more than 150 community volunteers assembled on July 31 for the 2021 event, and more than 2,500 volunteer days have been contributed since the event began in 2011. Sixty-three tires weighing 2,405 pounds, three TVs, some steel and a lot of trash were removed this year.

The Wabash River is the longest free-flowing, un-dammed waterway east of the Mississippi River. The

origin is 18 miles upriver from Fort Recovery, Ohio, but flows freely 425 miles to the southwest from the dam on Roush Reservoir to the Ohio River in southwest Indiana.

The Miami Indians called the Wabash River Wah-Bah Shik-Ki and French fur traders called it Oubache, meaning essentially "glittering water over white rocks."

The Tall Sycamore of the Wabash award is given to "certain individuals (who) stand high among all others for nurture and devotion to the peoples' beloved River, resembling Tall Sycamores along the banks of the Wabash."

AP EXPLAINS

Will we need vaccine passports to do fun things?

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

NEWPORT, R.I. — Ready to go out on the town before summer ends? In parts of the U.S., you might have to carry your COVID-19 vaccine card or a digital copy to get into restaurants, bars, nightclubs and outdoor music festivals.

After resisting the divisive concept of vaccine passports through most of the pandemic, a fast-growing number of private venues and some local officials are now requiring proof of immunization in public settings to reduce the spread of the highly transmissible delta variant of the coronavirus — and to assuage wary customers.

It's unlikely the U.S. will adopt a national mandate like the one in France, which on Monday began requiring people to show a QR code proving they have a special virus pass before they can enjoy restaurants and cafes or travel across the country.

But enough venues are starting to ask for digital passes to worry some privacy advocates, who fear the trend could habituate consumers to constant tracking.

Who's asking for vaccine passports?

New York City set the tone last week when Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that the city will soon require proof of COVID-19 vaccination for anyone who wants to dine indoors at a restaurant, see a performance or go to the gym.

But a growing number of private venues, from Broadway theaters to music clubs in Minneapolis and Milwaukee, have established their own similar rules for patrons.

"I'm a firm believer in the right for people to choose whether or not they get the vaccine," said Tami Montgomery, owner of Dru's Bar in Memphis, Tennessee,

which will start asking for paper vaccine cards along with photo identification on Thursday. "But it's my business and I have to make decisions based on what will protect my staff, business and customers."

Organizers of the Lollapalooza music festival in Chicago said on its opening day in late July that more than 90 percent of some 100,000 attendees presented proof of a vaccination, while most of the rest showed they'd recently had a negative COVID-19 test. Hundreds of others were turned away for lack of paperwork.

Only in a handful of states — Texas and Florida are the biggest — are private businesses prohibited from requiring proof of vaccination.

How do they work?

In some places, venues are simply asking you to bring your vaccination card — the same piece of paper you get from health providers and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Taking a picture of that card at home and then showing the image to the bouncer at the club can also work.

New York City offers a streamlined way of showing a photo through its NYC COVID Safe App, in which people can store images of their vaccine cards and then display them in the app when needed.

Other places are encouraging people to register their credentials using a scannable digital pass like New York's statewide Excelsior Pass or similar systems adopted by California, Hawaii and Louisiana and private companies like Walmart and the airport security app Clear. Some of the state-sponsored digital passes verify a person's vaccine credentials through a state or local immunization registry.

Such passes are designed for convenience and to prevent fraud. But that's also where the biggest privacy

concerns emerge, said Adam Schwartz, senior staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

What's wrong with QR codes?

The barcode known as a QR code was originally designed to help track products in a factory. These days, it's increasingly being used to track people's devices.

"Those systems are a giant leap towards tracking people's location," Schwartz said. "There's a very real risk of mission creep once there are scanners at doors and people are showing their scannable token to pass through."

But the coalition that helped create the Smart Health Card framework used by New York, California and the Canadian province of Quebec say they've already set privacy safeguards to guard against misuse of health data.

So long as a venue is using a VCI-compliant scanner, there shouldn't be anything to worry about, said Dr. Brian Anderson, chief digital health physician at MITRE and co-lead of the Vaccination Credential Initiative, which counts Apple, Microsoft and the Mayo Clinic among its members. "That app won't store an individual's data beyond the time that the QR code is scanned," he said.

Why not stick with paper?

Proponents of digital passports say they're more convenient for already-overwhelmed restaurants and other venues because workers don't have to peer at everyone's vaccine cards before letting them in. Lines move faster, and the digital scan reassures those who don't want to risk damaging or losing their paper cards. It's also easy to fake a paper card or a photo of one.

Hospitals run low on nurses as they get swamped with COVID

By TERRY SPENCER,
JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
and ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

The rapidly escalating surge in COVID-19 infections across the U.S. has caused a shortage of nurses and other front-line staff in virus hot spots that can no longer keep up with the flood of unvaccinated patients and are losing workers to burnout and lucrative out-of-state temporary gigs.

Florida, Arkansas and Louisiana all have more people hospitalized with COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic, and nursing staff is being stretched thin.

In Florida, virus cases have filled so many hospital beds that ambulance services and fire departments are straining to respond to emergencies. Some patients wait inside ambulances for up to an hour before hospitals in St. Petersburg, Florida, can admit them — a process that usually takes about 15 minutes, Pinellas County Administrator Barry Burton said.

One person who suffered a heart attack was bounced from six hospitals before finding an emergency room in New Orleans that could take him in, said Joe Kanter, Louisiana's chief public health officer.

"It's a real dire situation," Kanter said. "There's just not enough qualified staff in the state right now to care for all these patients."

Michelle Thomas resigned as a manager of the emergency department of a Tucson, Arizona, hospital three weeks ago after hitting a wall.

"There was never a time that we could just kind of take a breath," Thomas said Tuesday. "I hit that point ... I can't do this anymore. I'm so just tapped out."

She helped other nurses cope with being alone in rooms with dying patients and holding mobile phones so family members could

say their final goodbyes.

"It's like incredibly taxing and traumatizing," said Thomas, who is unsure if she will ever return to nursing.

Miami's Jackson Memorial Health System, Florida's largest medical provider, has been losing nurses to staffing agencies, other hospitals and pandemic burnout, Executive Vice President Julie Staub said. The hospital's CEO says nurses are being lured away to jobs in other states at double and triple the salary.

Staub said system hospitals have started paying retention bonuses to nurses who agree to stay for a set period. To cover shortages, nurses who agree to work extra are getting the typical time-and-a-half for overtime plus \$500 per additional 12-hour shift.

Even with that, the hospital sometimes still has to turn to agencies to fill openings.

"You are seeing folks chase the dollars," Staub said. "If they have the flexibility to pick up and go somewhere else and live for a week, months, whatever and make more money, it is a very enticing thing to do. I think every health care system is facing that."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday directed state officials to use staffing agencies to find additional medical staff from beyond the state's borders as the delta variant overwhelms its present staffing resources. He also has sent a letter to the Texas Hospital Association to request that hospitals postpone all elective medical procedures voluntarily.

Parts of Europe have so far avoided a similar hospital crisis, despite wide circulation of the delta variant, with help from vaccines.

The United Kingdom on Monday had more than 5,900 COVID-19 patients in hospitals, but the latest surge has not overwhelmed medical centers. As of Tuesday, the government

said 75 percent of adults have been fully vaccinated.

The same was true in Italy, where the summer infections have not resulted in any spike in hospital admissions, intensive care admissions or deaths. About 3,200 people in the nation of 60 million were hospitalized Tuesday in regular wards or ICUs, according to Health Ministry figures.

Italian health authorities advising the government on the pandemic attribute the relatively contained hospital numbers to the nation's inoculation campaign, which has fully vaccinated 64.5 percent of Italians 12 years of age or older.

The U.S. is averaging more than 116,000 new coronavirus infections a day along with about 50,000 hospitalizations, levels not experienced since the winter surge. Unlike other points in the pandemic, hospitals now have more non-COVID patients for everything from car accidents to surgeries that were postponed during the outbreak.

That has put even more burden on nurses who were already fatigued after dealing with constant death among patients and illness in their ranks.

"Anecdotally, I'm seeing more and more nurses say, 'I'm leaving, I've had enough,'" said Gerard Brogan, director of nursing practice with National Nurses United, an umbrella organization of nurses unions across the U.S. "The risk to me and my family is just too much."

COVID-19 hospitalizations have now surpassed the pandemic's worst previous surge in Florida, with no signs of letting up, setting a record of 13,600 on Monday, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. More than 2,800 required intensive care. At the height of last year's summer surge, there were more than 10,170 COVID-19 hospitalizations.

Parents told that their son and his wife are swingers

DEAR ABBY: My son and his wife have been living with us for two and a half years so they can save for a house. Recently, my best friend told me that a mutual acquaintance spotted a picture of my son and his wife on a swinger website. At first I discounted it.

Dear Abby



Then I started noticing they were going out every Friday and Saturday night. My daughter-in-law was usually dressed provocatively, and they wouldn't get home until around 5 or 5:30 a.m.

My husband and I are both Christians. Neither of us feel comfortable about the situation. What do you recommend we do? — Incredulous In Texas

DEAR INCREDULOUS: Your son and his wife are adults. You can't force them to live according to your religious beliefs. But neither do you have to give tacit consent and foster their living a life you do not approve of by turning a blind eye. Check the website for yourself. If what you heard is the gospel, it may be time your adult children made other living arrangements.

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Lois" is in her 70s. She met a man on a dating site several years ago. I warned her he was a romance scammer, but she kept talking to him. She even sent him a few hundred dollars. Since then, she talks to more than one stranger who I'm pretty sure are scammers as well.

Lois lives on Social Security, but sometimes comes into small windfalls from a stimulus or the sale of items. I suspect she's sending them money, too. She has been in a relationship with a man she lives with for several years. When I asked her how she would like it if he were doing the same thing, Lois told me she would stop. Now I see she is friends with three or four more strange men on Facebook! I don't know them, but they sometimes "like" things I post. (I will have to change my settings so that strangers can't see my posts.)

What's wrong with her? Does she like to pretend she is rich? They keep sending friend requests to me and my sister. Of course, we don't accept them. We have warned Lois about this, yet she continues to do the same thing. What can I do? — Seeing Clearly In Georgia

DEAR SEEING CLEARLY: Lois is an adult. You have warned her that what she's doing is a mistake. It may be a waste of her money, but you can't control her behavior, so accept that fact and live your own life accordingly.

DEAR ABBY: My friend's mom has been sick lately. She's on oxygen and has a portable oxygen concentrator. I am also on oxygen. Would it be rude of me to ask for her mom's portable concentrator after she passes? — Practical In California

DEAR PRACTICAL: To ask that question could be perceived as extremely insensitive. Attempt it only if you have the skills of a diplomat.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

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- 23 " — take forever!"
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- 28 Pungent veggie
- 30 Building wing
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- 32 Playing marble
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- 35 "Ugh!"
- 37 Narrow inlet
- 38 Succinct
- 39 Sister of Helios

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Answer to Previous Puzzle

V	I	S	A	O	P	T	D	A	T	E
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M	E	M	R	O	A	R	G	A	R	S
D	E	S	E	L	E	T	E	E	E	S
M	O	N	E	T	E	L	A	N	D	A
A	T	E	Z	I	N	N	I	A	N	A
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E	S	T	A	O	E	R	D	A	E	S
T	R	O	L	L	A	I	S	L	E	S
H	A	L	S	M	O	K	S	K	S	S

8-11

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



8/11

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	9	5	4	1	6	8	7	3
3	8	7	9	2	5	4	6	1
6	4	1	3	8	7	2	9	5
5	1	8	7	4	3	9	2	6
9	7	2	1	6	8	5	3	4
4	3	6	5	9	2	1	8	7
1	5	3	2	7	9	6	4	8
7	6	9	8	5	4	3	1	2
8	2	4	6	3	1	7	5	9

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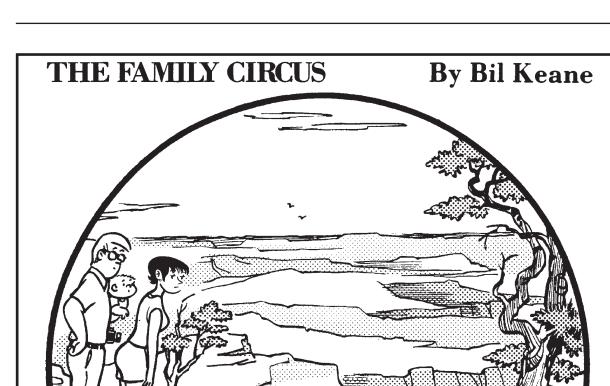
Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumbles: APART CHILD PURSUE RUCKUS

Answer: They had a large conifer planted in their yard to SPRUCE IT UP

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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"Wish they had something like this between our house and the school."

8-11

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"Wish they had something like this between our house and the school."

8-11

BEETLE BAILEY



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Opinion

SPEAK UP

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U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.

B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-4814 <http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2

419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17

Indiana Senate 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9467 Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18

Indiana House 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9841 h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the news-paper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10

The fierce urgency of now

The sixth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was published against a glowing backdrop of orange skies, as vast wildfires sweep through Greece and California. In western Germany, thousands of homes remain without running water or electricity following the devastating floods of July. In Yakutsk in Siberia – the coldest winter city on earth – residents were warned last month to stay inside as forest fires filled the air with toxic smoke, following heatwaves that began in the spring.

Eight years in the making, authored by the world's leading climate scientists and approved by 195 national governments, the report confirmed the meaning of the evidence before our eyes: the cumulative impact of human activity since the Industrial Revolution is "unequivocally" causing rapid and potentially catastrophic changes to the climate. The future that environmental scientists foresaw with alarm, when the IPCC produced its first report three decades ago, has arrived.

Without an accelerated reduction in greenhouse gases during the next decade, the ambition of the 2015 Paris climate agreement to limit global heating to 1.5C will not be met. The price of failure will be a world vulnerable to irreversible and exponential effects of global heating: there will be worse floods more often, more terrible and frequent heatwaves and devastating and repeated

droughts.

The science is irrefutable. Less certain is the strength of political will to act upon it. An awesome burden of responsibility now rests upon this generation of leaders as humanity finds itself at a fork in the road. The actions taken or foregone during the next 10 years will define the parameters of the possible for future generations. A step-change is required, but across the world green rhetoric continues to translate into policymaking at a pace which is fatally slow. China has committed to the target of net zero emissions by 2060, but continues to build coal-fired power plants both at home and abroad. Along with top carbon-emitters such as Russia and India, it refused to endorse the 1.5C goal at an April summit convened by the American president, Joe Biden. As Mr Biden's special envoy for climate, John Kerry, has said, if countries such as these cannot be persuaded to enact faster reductions over the next decade, the target looks unachievable.

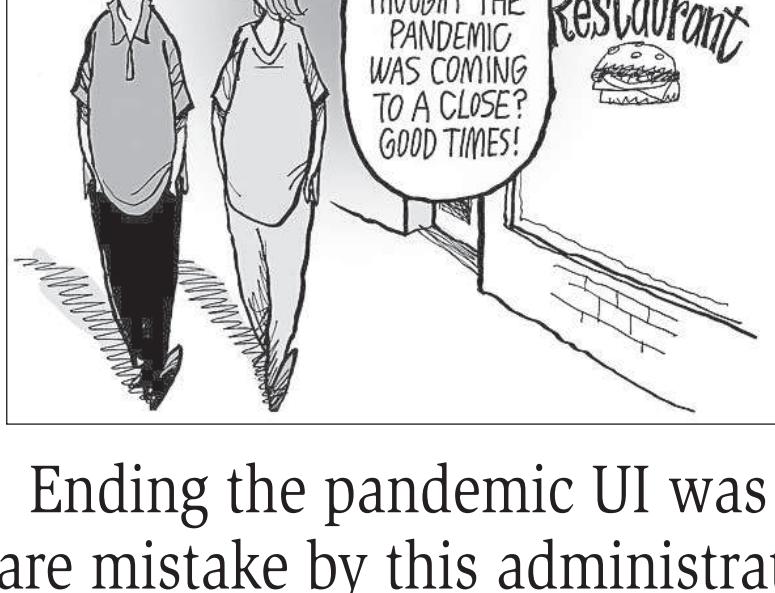
One month in the global climate crisis and what it means for Australia, with Lenore Taylor – video

At this treacherous turning point in history, Britain finds itself both uniquely placed and unprepared to host the crucial Cop26 climate summit in Glasgow. The government's climate chief and Cop26 president, Alok Sharma, has tried to use the IPCC report as a means of concentrating minds. In an interview at the

weekend, he said that the world was almost "out of time" in dealing with global heating. But ahead of arguably the most important summit held on British soil since the second world war, delay and equivocation have become the government's trademark response to the greatest challenge of our times. The publication of a net zero strategy, due in the spring, has been delayed until the autumn amid fears over the possible cost. Some Tory backbenchers have begun to lobby for a slower transition, based on the false presumption that poorer families will disproportionately bear the burden of change.

A fair transition to net zero is indeed imperative. With the right forms of intervention and subsidies, it is also eminently achievable. The experience of the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us that the most daunting challenges can be met by political leaders who recognise that exceptional times require exceptional measures. But thus far, there is little sign that Boris Johnson's government is willing to treat the climate crisis in the same way. The stark conclusions of the IPCC study, and Britain's vital convening role at Cop26, make that position indefensible. The science is unequivocal. The verdict is clear. There is no more room for maneuver, delay or procrastination in dealing with a crisis which is this generation's responsibility to address.

This editorial was first published in The Guardian.



Ending the pandemic UI was a rare mistake by this administration

In May, Gov. Eric Holcomb's announced an early end to pandemic unemployment assistance. This decision was a rare policy mistake for an administration that had spent more than a year handling COVID with admirable attention to data and good judgment. The mistake was also unusual in that the predictable result was economic damage to those Hoosiers who were most affected by COVID.

This was a marked departure from the administration's more than yearlong focus on the health and well-being of those most impacted by the pandemic.

Fortunately, the courts reversed that decision and payments resumed last

month. Labor markets are slowly improving, so fewer families would've been substantially harmed by the payment turbulence. Ultimately, the decision to end pandemic unemployment assistance early will be only a footnote to an administration that performed commendably through the worst crisis Indiana faced since the Civil War.

The sole reason I write about the topic is that this episode illustrates how inchoate Indiana's workforce decision process has become.

Moreover, the fiasco with pandemic unemployment assistance illuminates the folly of the Division of Workforce Development's culture of supporting businesses at the expense of taxpayers as a whole. Hopefully, this incident will lead to a more mature approach within the administration and the DWD.

The CARES Act passed in March 2020, authorizing supplement types of unemployment insurance to self-employed persons. The act also provided an additional \$300 per week in UI payments. The payments were later extended until mid-autumn of this year. The purpose of the payments was to bolster the pandemic-affected economy and support the majority of families affected by COVID job losses. These pandemic payments came solely from federal tax dollars, so state tax coffers were unaffected.

The pandemic unemployment insurance payments were as close to a 'free lunch' for Hoosier taxpayers

as anything we'll ever receive. So, it is puzzling how a provision signed by President Trump and unanimously passed by the Senate would become target of partisan opposition in less than a year. Of course, this is because by April 2021, many businesses complained about a looming labor shortage presumably caused by generous pandemic unemployment payments. But even more mystifying is how anyone could've examined labor force data in April or May and concluded there was a labor shortage in Indiana.

By the end of April, Indiana's economy had stopped growing. Over the first four months of the year, employment nationwide grew by a healthy 1.1 percent, but Indiana's employment actually dropped by one-tenth of a percent (0.1 percent). From January through April, the state experienced an employment decline of more than 3,400 workers. This decline was broad-based, leaving Indiana as one of the worst-performing economies in the nation. This alone should've been strong evidence that something other than the lack of workers was weighing on the Hoosier economy.

In the days leading up to the May decision to suspend pandemic UI, data was flowing in that didn't just challenge the notion of a labor shortage, but also absolutely crushed that claim. From the peak of 2021 UI in mid-January through mid-May, the state's UI system reported that almost 170,000 workers left the system. So, the decision to terminate the pandemic UI payments was made after four months of declining employment, when a whopping 170,000 Hoosier workers had already lost benefits.

Labor markets are dynamic, and so data on workers, wages and available jobs are sometimes hard to evaluate. For example, in a normal four-month period, we'd expect maybe 25,000 Hoosiers to retire. Accounting for some of these 170,000 workers who were leaving UI, backfilling recent retirements and adding the loss of overall employment means that from January to early May, just under 150,000 workers lost benefits without finding work.

This means that just as Indiana announced it had a 'labor shortage' and would end the pandemic UI early, the state's own labor market data made clear there was a 'labor

surplus.' But there was even more data nationwide that suggested little or no evidence of a labor shortage. Wage growth in early 2021 was also muted. As the decision to end UI was made in May, wage growth nationally beat inflation for only two of the six previous months. Moreover, 'help wanted' ads in April and the first three weeks of 2021 were only 12 percent higher than 2018, the last strong year of economic growth in the state.

The wholly unvarnished truth of the matter is that when Governor Holcomb announced the end of pandemic UI, there was absolutely no credible evidence from labor markets of a shortage of workers. Sure, there were businesses complaining about the difficulty of finding workers. No doubt many of them did and still do find it difficult to attract workers. However, those claims just cannot outweigh piles of contradictory evidence.

Businesses are taxpayers, and businesses deserve to be heard by elected officials, but when claims by businesses can be easily refuted by the state's own data, their concerns cannot be taken seriously enough to guide public policy. The culture of state government that values business voices over all other considerations is a bad one for Hoosier taxpayers, and, more importantly, it is bad for business. This episode suggests a broad reevaluation.

It is worth noting that in the weeks since the May announcement to end pandemic UI, the very poor justification for that decision has actually deteriorated. Between the January highs and the end of June this year, the UI rolls shed a full 237,000 workers, while Indiana businesses created only 21,300 jobs. Indiana's economy did a bit better in May and June than over the previous six months. Still, Indiana has grown employment at less than 40 percent the national rate this year.

The claims of a labor shortage in May turned out to be patently false, and in the month that UI ended, the state's unemployment rate actually rose. I don't know what advice the governor received from the Division of Workforce Development when it came to ending this program. I'm hopeful that somewhere within that agency, someone argued that the data didn't warrant such a decision. If not, it is time to change both culture and staff.

Looking down the road

For all practical purposes, August is already over. That may seem odd to say, but it's true. The plans for August were in discussion in June or before. Making changes

now for August feels like jack-hammering up new concrete that was poured about two weeks ago. If that's a stretch for you, consider that September is now being poured into the forms. There is still time to put your hand-prints on it or

write your initials in it, but only for a short time. October, November and December are still being mixed and there is time to include some additives for greater strength or additives for colder temperatures when it's poured, but those planned activities and decisions have to be made now or it makes later changes harder and usually more expensive. It's also now time to vision, discuss, research and begin to document ideas and plans for 2022. Our approach to plan for the coming year, which normally is pretty firm by each September will be pushed back until October when Bekah Clawson, the new president and CEO for Second Harvest arrives. Much internal discussions will happen in August and September as it's necessary so we can have a well-developed flight plan ready for review and final adjustments in October.

Organizational planning and lead times are normally much longer than how things work for us individually. Personal decisions and choices many times spin around on a dime to adapt and accommodate what today brings. Some call it "rolling with the punches" or maybe living life "spontaneously," without knowing how our spontaneity is affecting those around us. However, it's phrased, we are faced with adjusting today from what we believed our plans would be only yesterday. Just when we thought the path looked clear – life happens and now things will most definitely be changing. Medical test results, family announcements, relationship changes, admission of dependency, loss of life in the family, job promotion, job loss, just to name a few, can cause things to spin and leave us feeling too dizzy to function normally or at the very least, just not our "best self."

Organizations are made up of people, some of whom may not show up as their "best self" today or tomorrow, which can affect how well an organization can operate. That in itself can sometimes result in getting the jack-hammers out to make an adjustment to get through the day. The operation of daily jack-hammers can get to be a tough work environment if that's not your organization's business. Although probably not completely unavoidable, hopefully, those days would be few and far between. Which, brings us back to looking down the road to the fourth quarter and next year.

Thanks to community support, in our fourth quarter plan, we have added four more schools – which now totals 40 schools in eight counties – to The Big Idea initiative. Fall Forward STEPS class recruitment is underway with a new location in place. We plan to add at least two more community partners in our Neighborhood Van initiative in Muncie. Small Community Distributions (populations under 2,500) will be growing from six sites to nine or 10 sites. Discussions are underway to add two more Senior Safety Net sites that would increase the total to 18 sites. Agency Partners may be growing by two more as well. Operation Full Pack – our veteran and active duty initiative – is now underway with two sites and discussions are underway with several more sites as well.

The need for support and assistance is still significantly higher than it was pre-COVID and looks to remain that way throughout the rest of the year. As government assistance phases out, more families will be faced with the familiar circumstances they were in during 2019 and before, making more difficult choices with fewer options. With your help, our plans will not be to watch this or stand in place, but to step forward.

Tim Kean is the president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana. The Second Harvest Food Bank network of 95-member agencies, programs, 16 senior sites and 36 schools provide relationship building and food assistance to more than 67,000 low-income people facing daily instability in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph and Wabash counties.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo resigns over sexual harassment allegations

By MARINA VILLENEUVE

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced his resignation Tuesday over a barrage of sexual harassment allegations in a fall from grace a year after he was widely hailed nationally for his detailed daily briefings and leadership during some of the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By turns defiant and chastened, the 63-year-old Democrat emphatically denied intentionally mistreating women and called the pressure for his ouster politically motivated. But he said that fighting back in this “too hot” political climate would subject the state to months of turmoil.

“The best way I can help now is if I step aside and let government get back to governing,” Cuomo said in a televised address.

The third-term governor’s resignation, which will take effect in two weeks, was announced as momentum built in the Legislature to remove him by impeachment and after nearly the entire Democratic establishment had turned against him, with President Joe Biden joining those calling on him to resign.

The decision came a week after New York’s attorney general released the results of an investigation that found Cuomo sexually harassed at least 11 women.

Investigators said he subjected women to unwanted kisses; groped their breasts or buttocks or otherwise touched them inappropriately; made insinuating remarks about their looks and their sex lives; and created a work environment “rife with fear and intimidation.”

At the same time, Cuomo was under fire over the discovery that his administration had concealed thousands



New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Aug. 2. He announced his resignation on Tuesday.

of COVID-19 deaths among nursing home patients.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, a 62-year-old Democrat and former member of Congress from the Buffalo area, will become the state’s 57th governor and the first woman to hold the post. She said Cuomo’s resignation was “the right thing to do and in the best interest of New Yorkers.”

The #MeToo-era scandal cut short not just a career but a dynasty: Cuomo’s father, Mario Cuomo, was governor in the 1980s and ’90s, and the younger Cuomo was often mentioned as a potential presidential candidate. Even as the scandal mushroomed, he was planning to run for re-election in 2022.

Republicans exulted in Cuomo’s departure but still urged impeachment, which could prevent him from running for office again. “This resignation is simply an attempt to avoid real accountability,” state GOP chair Nick Langworthy said.

At the White House, Biden said: “I respect the governor’s decision.” At the same time, he said Cuomo had “done a

helluva job” on infrastructure and voting rights, and “that’s why it’s so sad.”

“From the beginning, I simply asked that the governor stop his abusive behavior,” Lindsey Boylan, the first woman to accuse Cuomo publicly of harassment, tweeted Tuesday. “It became abundantly clear he was unable to do that, instead attacking and blaming victims until the end.”

Cuomo still faces the possibility of criminal charges, with a number of prosecutors around the state continuing to investigate him. At least one of his accusers has filed a criminal complaint.

The governor prefaced his resignation with a 45-minute defense from his lawyer and his own insistence that his behavior — while sometimes insensitive, off-putting or “too familiar” — had been used against him as a weapon in a political environment where “rashness has replaced reasonableness.”

“I am a fighter, and my instinct is to fight through this controversy because I truly believe it is politically mo-

tivated. I believe it is unfair and it is untruthful,” he said, but added that he didn’t want “distractions” to consume the state government as it grapples with the pandemic and other problems.

The string of accusations began in news reports last December and went on for months. Cuomo called some of the allegations fabricated and denied he touched anyone inappropriately. But he acknowledged making some aides uncomfortable with comments he said he intended as playful, and he apologized for some of his behavior.

He portrayed some encounters as misunderstandings attributable to “generational or cultural” differences, invoking his upbringing in an affectionate Italian American family.

The attorney general’s investigation backed up the women’s accounts and added lurid new ones, turning up the pressure on Cuomo. Investigators also said that the governor’s staff retaliated against Boylan by leaking confidential personnel files about her.

Big win for \$1 trillion infrastructure bill: Dems, GOP come together

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

deliver and the government could function.

“Today’s kind of a good news, bad news day,” said Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, one of the negotiators. “The good news is that today we really did something historic in the United States Senate; we moved out an infrastructure package, something that we have talked about doing for years.” The bad news, she said, is what’s coming next.

Infrastructure was once a mainstay of lawmaking, but the weeks-long slog to strike a compromise showed how hard it has become for Congress to tackle routine legislating, even on shared priorities.

Tuesday’s Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act started with a group of 10 senators who seized on Biden’s campaign promise to draft a scaled-down version of his initial \$2.3 trillion proposal, one that could more broadly appeal to both parties in the narrowly divided Congress, especially the 50-50 Senate.

It swelled to a 2,700-page bill backed by the president and also business, labor and farm interests. Over time, it drew an expansive alliance of senators and a bipartisan group in the House.

In all, 19 Republicans joined all Democrats in voting for Senate passage. Vice President Kamala Harris, as presiding officer, announced the final tally.

While liberal lawmakers said the package doesn’t go far enough as a down-payment on Biden’s priorities and conservatives said it is too costly and should be more fully paid for, the coalition of centrist senators was able to hold. Even broadsides from former President Donald Trump could not bring the bill down.

With the Republicans lockstep against the next big package, many of them reached for the current compromise with the White House because they, too, wanted show they could

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Sports

A10

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After four years running at Manchester High School, Anna Markham is continuing her track and cross country career this upcoming year at Trine University.

Markham moving on to Trine

Track and cross country standout graduated from MHS with a 3.3 GPA

By CLAY MAXFIELD
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

After four years running at Manchester High School, Anna Markham is continuing her track and cross country career this upcoming year at Trine University. While running with the Thunder, Markham plans to study physical therapy with a minor in exercise science and psychology.

Markham graduated from Manchester High School with a 3.3 GPA.

"I'm super excited to be able to join such a great team," Markham said. "Coaches and athletes are very welcoming and it sounds like it will be a fun year being able to experience something new, I'm

just really excited for it."

While the allure of being able to continue her running career was the major motivator for Markham, she also touched on the feel and atmosphere of Trine.

"I love the sport. That obviously plays into it but the atmosphere of Trine is awesome. They make you feel welcome and like they want you to be there. The coaches are there to help you get through it all," she said.

With plans to compete in the middle distance, Markham will specifically run in the 4x800, 800 meters, 1600 meters and 4x400.

As a Squire, Markham qualified for regionals while also placing third at sectionals in the 4x800 followed by a sixth-place finish in the 1600 meter.

Manchester head track coach Julie Castle noted that those that may be unfamiliar with Markham's work ethic will find that there isn't a tougher competitor.

"Anna will bring heart and determination," Castle said. "Those of us who have worked with her over the years, know she's got it in spades. She has a never say die mentality and will always give it 150 percent. ... Whenever Anna gets off that track, you know that she's done her very best."

For Markham, there wasn't a bigger lesson learned from her Manchester coaches than the ones about her mentality as a runner.

"Just helping me mentally with the sport. Cross country and track, running in general is 99.9 percent mental. They kind of just help you push past that barrier so you're able to just run. It's hard at times but that's when mentality that comes in and you have to push yourself. ... They've just made me become the runner I am today."

Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

Get the shot or take the ball and go home

This isn't a betting column, though there does appear to be an opportunity to make a few bucks in the NFL market. That would be in Minnesota, where quarterback Kirk Cousins seems intent on sabotaging any chance the Vikings can match the win total of nine games set by oddsmakers going into the season.

That Cousins is not vaccinated and has no plans to get vaccinated should be troubling enough for Viking fans. Already sidelined for a few crucial practice days, he's one positive test away from potentially ruining a season that, by all accounts, looked playoff worthy.

The same is true in Baltimore, where quarterback Lamar Jackson – who missed a game last year after testing positive for COVID-19 – missed the opening of training camp after testing positive yet again. Amazingly enough, Jackson said he is still on the fence about getting vaccinated.

"I just got off the COVID list, so I've got to talk to my team doctors and try to see how they feel about it," he said Monday.

No need for that because the team doctors will all say the same thing: Get the vaccine. And most players are, with the NFL reporting last week that 90 percent of players have had at least one vaccine shot.

The decisions by players crucial to the success of both teams are as disturbing as they are perplexing. In Minnesota, it has already cost Cousins an endorsement with a hospital, which couldn't very well have him promoting health care when refusing to do the one thing necessary to keep himself and those around him healthy.

A quarterback is supposed to be a leader, someone who pulls the team together toward the common goal of a Super Bowl. Cousins is doing the

Tim Dahlberg



opposite, and it has already cost the Vikings valuable practice time as he and two other quarterbacks were sidelined last week because of possible exposure to COVID.

It also had coach Mike Zimmer shaking his head over where the players are getting their information about vaccines.

"Some of the things they read are just ..." Zimmer said before pausing, "out there."

That makes what Lane Kiffin and his staff have done in college even more impressive. Kiffin said last week his Mississippi football players are 100 percent vaccinated after an education program helped everybody buy-in – not just for the sake of their own health but the team's success in a league where forfeits loom if a school can't field a team.

"Nobody wants to be in a position to forfeit games," Kiffin said.

This was supposed to be the time when sports returned to normal after more than a year of missed games, empty stadiums and constant testing.

But with the emergence of the Delta variant and the refusal of some players to get vaccines, COVID figures to again dominate the landscape of fall sports heading into winter.

It's not just football players with their helmets in the sand. Just listen to Bryson DeChambeau, who already had a well-deserved reputation as a petulant and self-absorbed player even before he made some ignorant remarks about the vaccine last week.

"I'm young enough, I'd rather give it (the vaccine) to people who need it," DeChambeau said. "I don't need it. I'm a healthy, young individual that will continue to work on my

health."

Apparently DeChambeau has been so busy bulking up and trying to smash a golf ball 400 yards that he hasn't been paying attention to the news. Had he been doing so, he would have figured out that young people are being hospitalized – and some are dying – despite being otherwise healthy before catching the virus.

And he surely would have known that anyone in the United States who wants the vaccine can get it – and get it quickly.

And then there's Washington State football coach Nick Rolovich, whose job is both to win games for his university and provide a role model for the young men in his program. Rolovich was banned from the Pac-12 media day because he refuses to get vaccinated and said the other day that he couldn't say how many of his players have gotten the vaccine.

Oddsmakers figure the Cougars will win six games this season. The case could be made that the team never plays six games the entire season.

There are consequences for passing on the vaccine and getting COVID is, of course, the biggest one.

There are also consequences on the job. Around the country, companies, schools and government agencies are beginning to require vaccinations to remain employed. Soon vaccines will be necessary if you want to be in the armed forces.

Sports should be no different. For the good of their sports and their teammates athletes should face only one simple choice.

Get the shot or take the ball and go home.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg@ap.org.

Purdue quarterbacks face third straight battle to start opener

By MICHAEL MAROT

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE — Jack Plummer finished second in each of Purdue's last two summer quarterback competitions.

Aidan O'Connell is trying to earn his second straight opening day start. And this time, former UCLA backup Austin Burton intends to put his name in the mix, too.

For a program seeking stability at football's most critical position, picking a winner may be the most important decision the Boilermakers make all year.

"You're looking for someone who can do it right all the time," co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Brian Brohm said after Purdue's second practice. "It's consistent play and a guy teammates know every time they step in the huddle will make the play be successful, someone they believe in."

Over the past two seasons, it's been a revolving door with Plummer and O'Connell getting their share of snaps.

After losing the battle to Elijah Sindelar in 2019, Plummer replaced the injured starter in Week 2, then started the next six games before suffering a

season-ending broken right ankle.

That's when O'Connell took over, closing out a victory over Nebraska and leading the Boilermakers past Northwestern before losing the season's final two games.

As Plummer fought his way back, O'Connell solidified his hold on the job and was named the starter for last season's shortened six-game schedule. He won the first two games before suffering a season-ending foot injury in a Week 3 loss to the Wildcats and giving way to Plummer, who lost the final three games only to presumably open camp in the No. 1 spot.

The battles have taught Plummer some hard lessons.

"You've got to bring it every play, every day, and if you don't you might not be playing," he said. "You've got to be sharp, got to be consistent, got to be focused and that's the way it should be."

Plummer has all the natural gifts. The strong-armed 6-foot-5, 220-pounder from Arizona came to Purdue as one of the top quarterbacks in the 2018 recruiting class.

With two older quarterbacks – Sindelar and David Blough – ahead of him on the depth chart, Plummer figured he'd eventually get

a chance to become the next big star at the Cradle of Quarterbacks.

Instead, he didn't throw a pass as a freshman and spent the past two seasons, going 232 of 365 for 2,541 yards, 19 touchdowns and 10 interceptions.

O'Connell was a two-sport high school star who joined the Boilermakers as a walk-on in 2017. The 6-3, 200-pound Illinois native has proven he's mobile enough to make plays on the run. He's 3-2 as the starter, having completed 191 of 300 throws for 2,017 yards, 15 TD passes and six interceptions.

The game reps were priceless," he said. "The bul-

lets are flying, the fire is hot. When you make a mistake in practice you don't really pay a price because you don't get hit but when you make a mistake in a game, you are literally physically punished."

Many believe the competition may again come down to Plummer and O'Connell.

But Burton could make it a three-man race.

At 6-2, 210 pounds, he appears to be a combination of Plummer and O'Connell.

He moves well, has a strong enough arm and may be more accurate than the others. He's the son of former Northwestern quarterback Steve Burton and the grandson of former NFL player and College Football Hall of

Famer Ron Burton.

Burton enrolled early at UCLA before transferring to Purdue in 2020 after making only one career start with the Bruins.

Burton might have had a stronger chance last year if spring football hadn't been canceled and the Big Ten hadn't modified the season after initially announcing it had been canceled. Now, though, a complete offseason and a full camp schedule could give Burton an opportunity to prove himself.

"I think I'm playing with more confidence because I have a better understanding of the system," he said.

"I think whatever you do in you in life, if you have a better understanding, the better you do. I think my strengths are I run pretty well as well as my decision making."

And after failing to become bowl eligible each of the past two seasons, the first two misses during Jeff Brohm's head coaching career, the Boilermakers want to make sure they get this one right.

"I'm looking for the best decision-maker, the most accurate thrower and toughness," Brian Brohm said. "The guys know I grade that every single day at practice and I'm pretty up front about my grades, so they know it's a close competition."

USA Today AFCA Coaches Poll

The preseason USA TODAY Sports AFCA Coaches Poll Top 25 with team's records FROM LAST SEASON in parentheses, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th, ranking in last year's final poll and first-place votes received:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Alabama (63)	13-0	1508 1
2. Clemson	10-2	1481 3
3. Oklahoma (2)	9-2	1435 6
4. Ohio State	7-1	1386 2
5. Georgia	8-2	1286 7
6. Texas A&M	9-1	1139 4
7. Notre Dame	10-2	1131 5
8. Iowa State	9-3	999 9
9. North Carolina	8-4	979 17
10. Cincinnati	9-1	870 8
11. Florida	8-4	842 12
12. Oregon	4-3	664 NR
13. LSU	5-5	655 NR
14. USC	5-1	654 21
15. Wisconsin	4-3	575 NR
16. Miami (FL)	8-3	573 22
17. Indiana	6-2	554 13
18. Iowa	6-2	427 15
19. Miami, Fla.	8-3	422 22
20. Indiana	6-2	404 13
21. Iowa	6-2	216 15
22. Penn State	4-5	150 NR
23. Washington	8-3	216 19
24. C. Carolina	11-1	153 16
25. Mississippi	5-5	149 NR

Dropped out: No. 10 Northwestern (7-2); No. 11 Brigham Young (11-1); No. 18 Liberty (10-1); No. 23 Ball State (7-1); No. 24 San Jose State (7-1); No. 25 Buffalo (6-1).

Others receiving votes: Utah (3-2) 145; Northwestern (7-2) 120; Arizona State (2-2) 90; Auburn (6-5) 84; Liberty (10-1) 68; Brigham Young (11-1) 53; TCU (6-4) 48; Michigan (4-2) 30; Central Florida (6-4) 29; Boise State (5-2) 27; North Carolina State (8-4) 27; Kent State (5-6) 20; San Jose State (7-1) 18; Army (9-3) 13; Virginia Tech (5-6) 9; Missouri (5-5) 8; UCLA (3-4) 7; Boston College (6-5) 6; Pittsburgh (6-5) 6; Tulsa (6-3) 6;



Star Tribune / TNS photo

Purdue quarterback Jack Plummer throws against Minnesota.

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